

Appl. No.: 10/707,403
Amdt. Dated: 2/20/2006
Reply to Office action of: 12/08/2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 – 9 which provide said Figures 1 – 9 having proper line quality to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.84(l). In addition, Figures 3 – 9 have had descriptive legends added to the numbered blocks to meet the Examiner's requirement under 37 CFR 1.84(o).

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s) – 5 sheets
Annotated Sheet(s) Showing Changes – 5 sheets

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, paragraphs [0021], [0024], [0049], [0052], [0054], [0067], [0070], [0073], [0075], [0079], and [0082] have been amended to incorporate the equations originally filed as separate drawings into the text of the specification per the Examiner's suggestion to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.84(d).

Figures 1 – 9 have been redrawn to provide proper clarity and USPTO drawing requirements under 37 CFR 1.84(l). Figures 3 – 9 have also been amended to provide text legends as well as numbers in the blocks to provide ease of understanding to comply with the Examiner's requirement under 37 CFR 1.84(o).

Claims 3 – 6 and 14 remain in this application. Claims 1 – 2, 7 – 13, and 15 – 22 have been canceled.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 3 – 6 and 14 are directed to allowable subject matter if claims 3 and 14 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and if issues of indefiniteness were resolved.

By this amendment claims 3 and 14 have been rewritten incorporating all of the limitations of the base claims 1 and 12 respectively and the limitations of all intervening claims. Also, by this amendment the issues of indefiniteness have been corrected.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(o) and 1.84(l). By this amendment the drawings have been amended to overcome these objections. In light of these amendments to the drawings the objections are now moot and Applicant respectfully requests their removal.

The equations were objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(d). By this amendment the equations have been incorporated into the specification and therefore overcome the objection. In light of the amendment to the equations the objection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

Claim 20 was objected to for a misspelled word. By this amendment Claim 20 has been canceled. In light of this amendment this objection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

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Claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 13, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. By this amendment Claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 13, 20, and 21 have been canceled. In light of this amendment this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

Claims 1, 2, 12, 13, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janse et al. (US Patent 5,768,398) in view of Schmidt (WO 99/41897). By this amendment Claims 1, 2, 12, 13, and 18 have been canceled. In light of this amendment this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janse in view of Schmidt and further in view of Grayson et al. (US Patent 5,995,816). By this amendment Claim 7 has been canceled. In light of this amendment this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janse in view of Schmidt and further in view of Grayson and further in view of Tanaka et al. (US Patent 4,558,460). By this amendment Claim 8 has been canceled. In light of this amendment this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janse in view of Schmidt and further in view of Akram (US Patent 4,503,398). By this amendment Claim 9 has been canceled. In light of this amendment this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

Claims 10, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janse in view of Schmidt and further in view of Tanaka. By this amendment Claims 10, 16, and 17 have been canceled. In light of this amendment this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janse in view of Schmidt and further in view of Fang et al. (US Patent 6,480,610). By this amendment Claim 11 has been canceled. In light of this amendment this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janse in view of Schmidt and further in view of Lucey et al. (US Patent 4,490,584). By this

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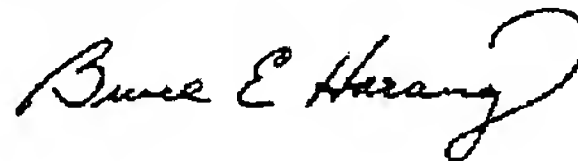
amendment Claim 15 has been canceled. In light of this amendment this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

Claims 12 and 19 – 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Finn et al. (US Patent 6,496,581) in view of Schmidt. By this amendment Claims 12 and 19 – 21 have been canceled. In light of this amendment this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Finn in view of Schmidt and further in view of Staudacher (US Patent 5,533,120). By this amendment Claim 22 has been canceled. In light of this amendment this rejection is now moot and Applicant respectfully requests its removal.

In view of the remarks herein, and the amendments hereto, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action and issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments

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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

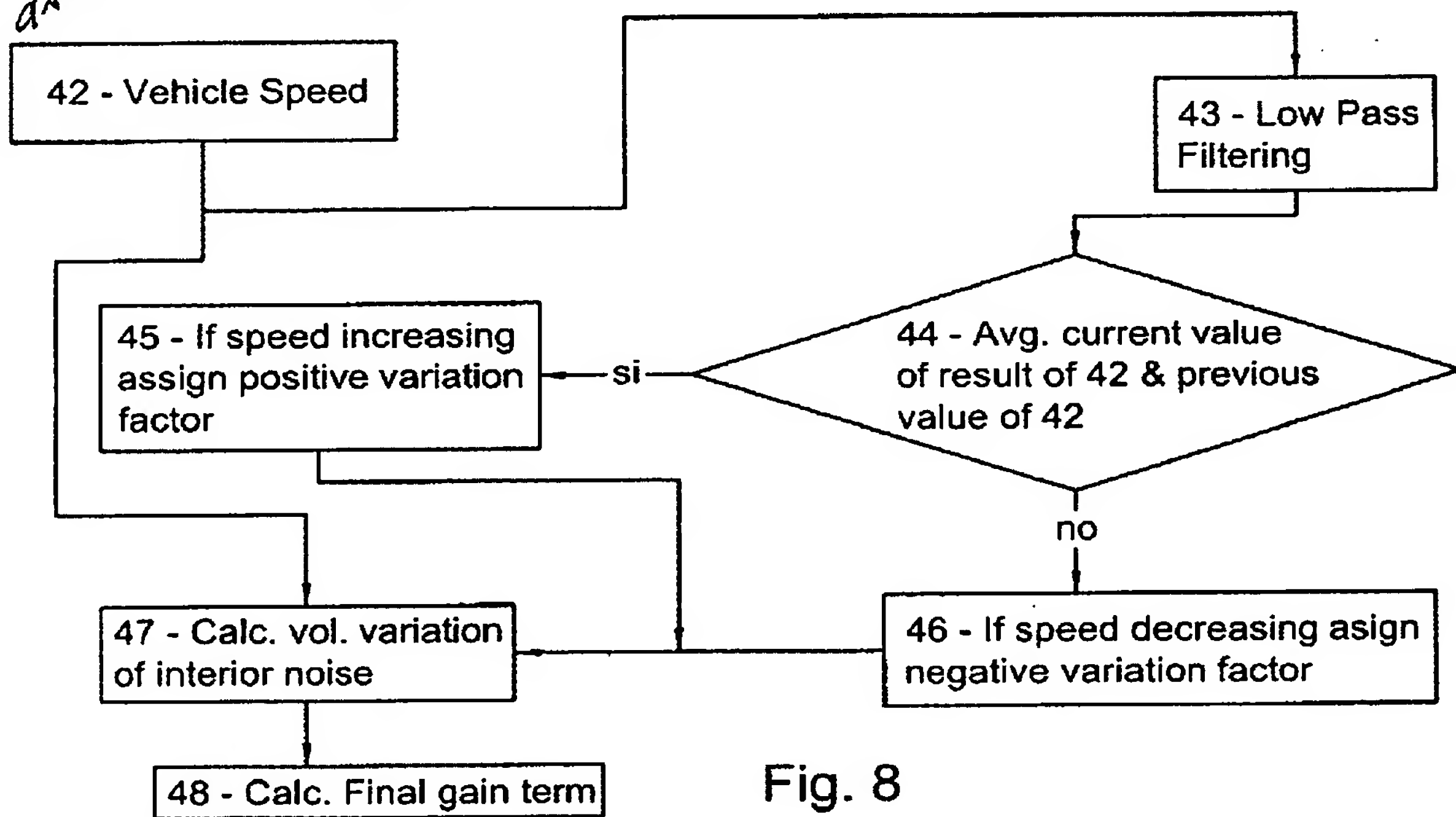
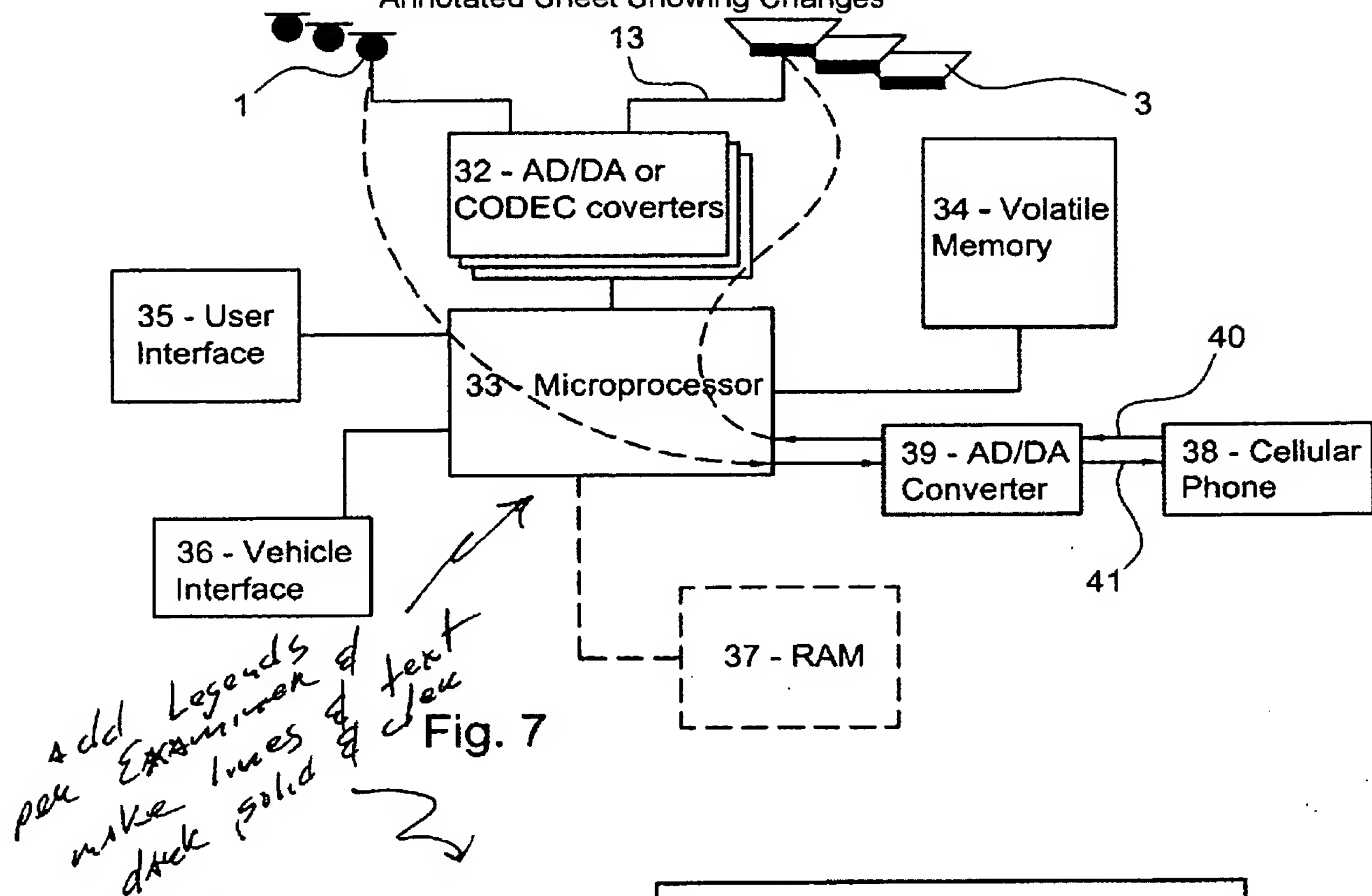


Fig. 8

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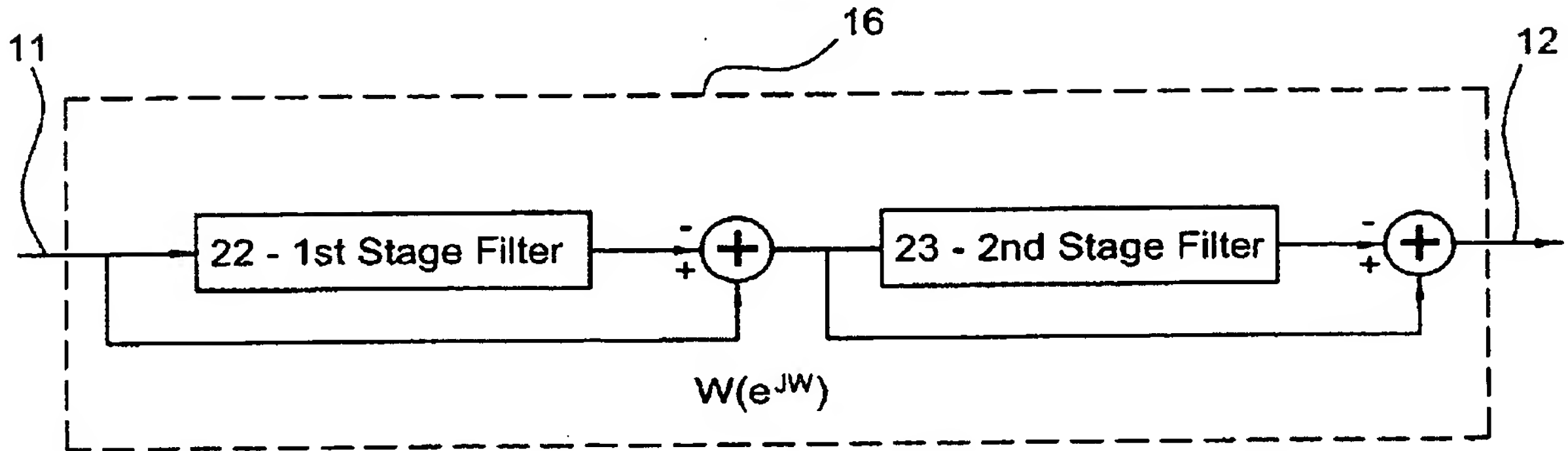


Fig. 5

*Add legends per
Examiner & make
lines & text dark,
solid, & clear*

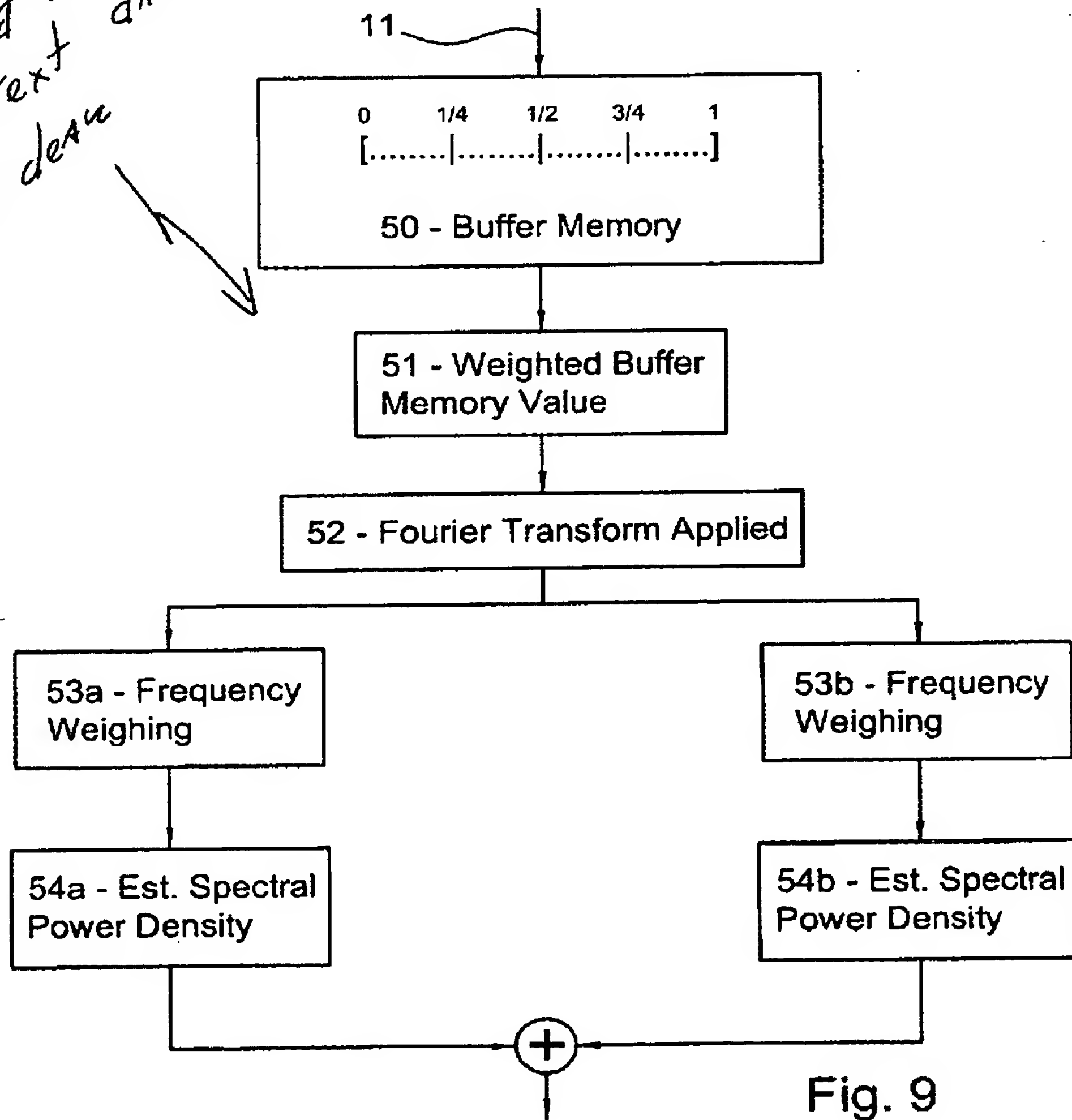


Fig. 9

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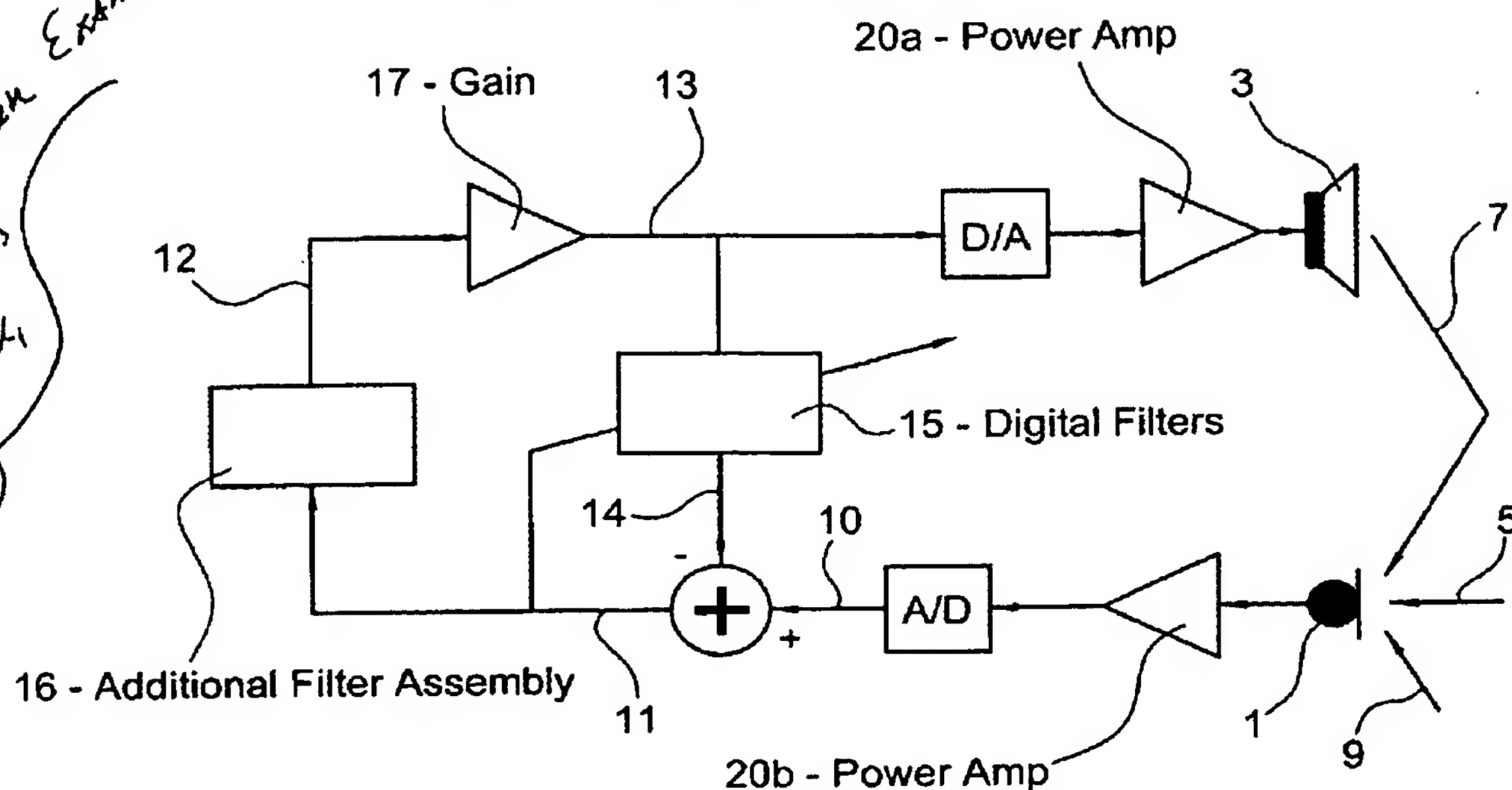


Fig. 3

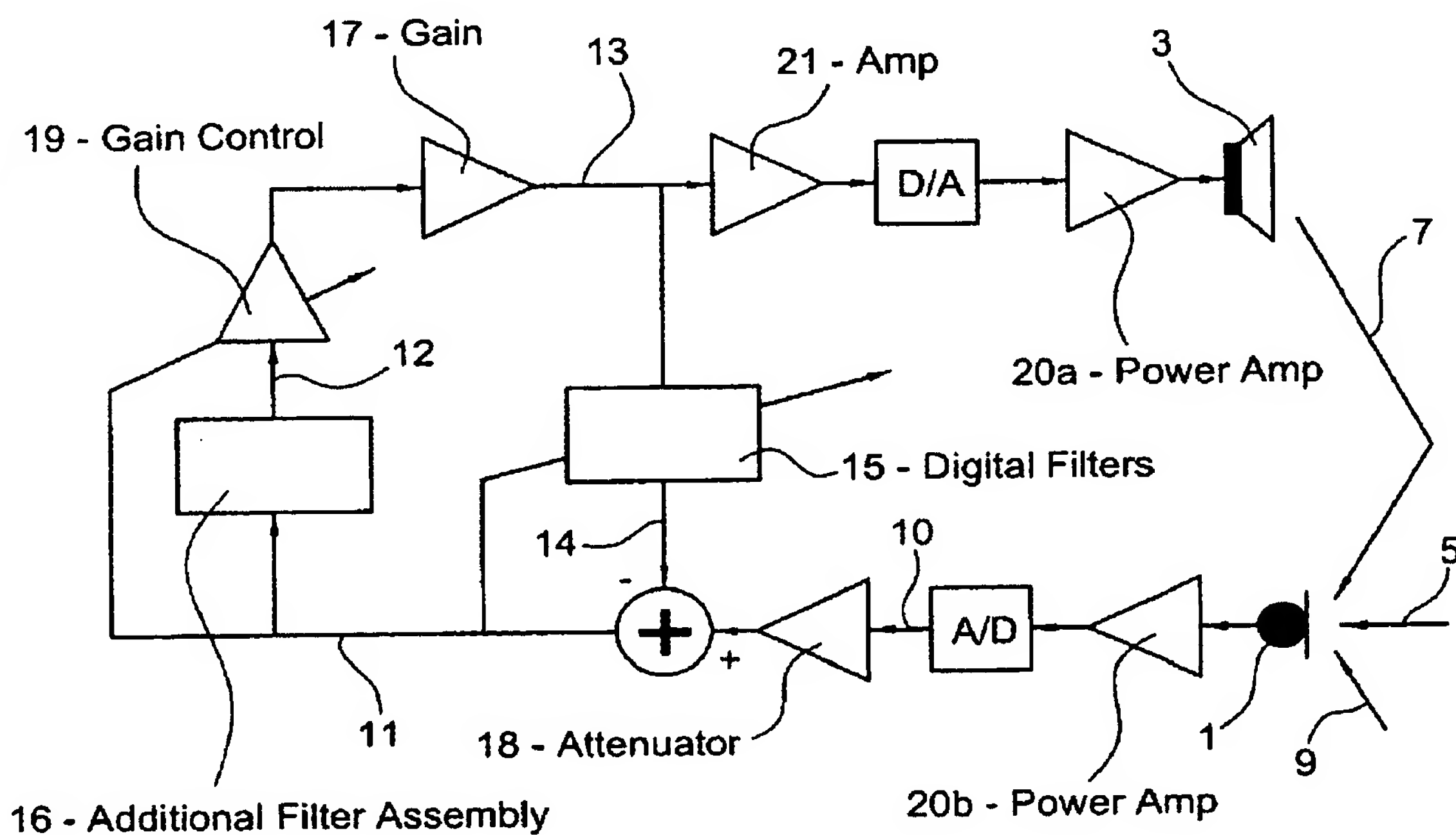
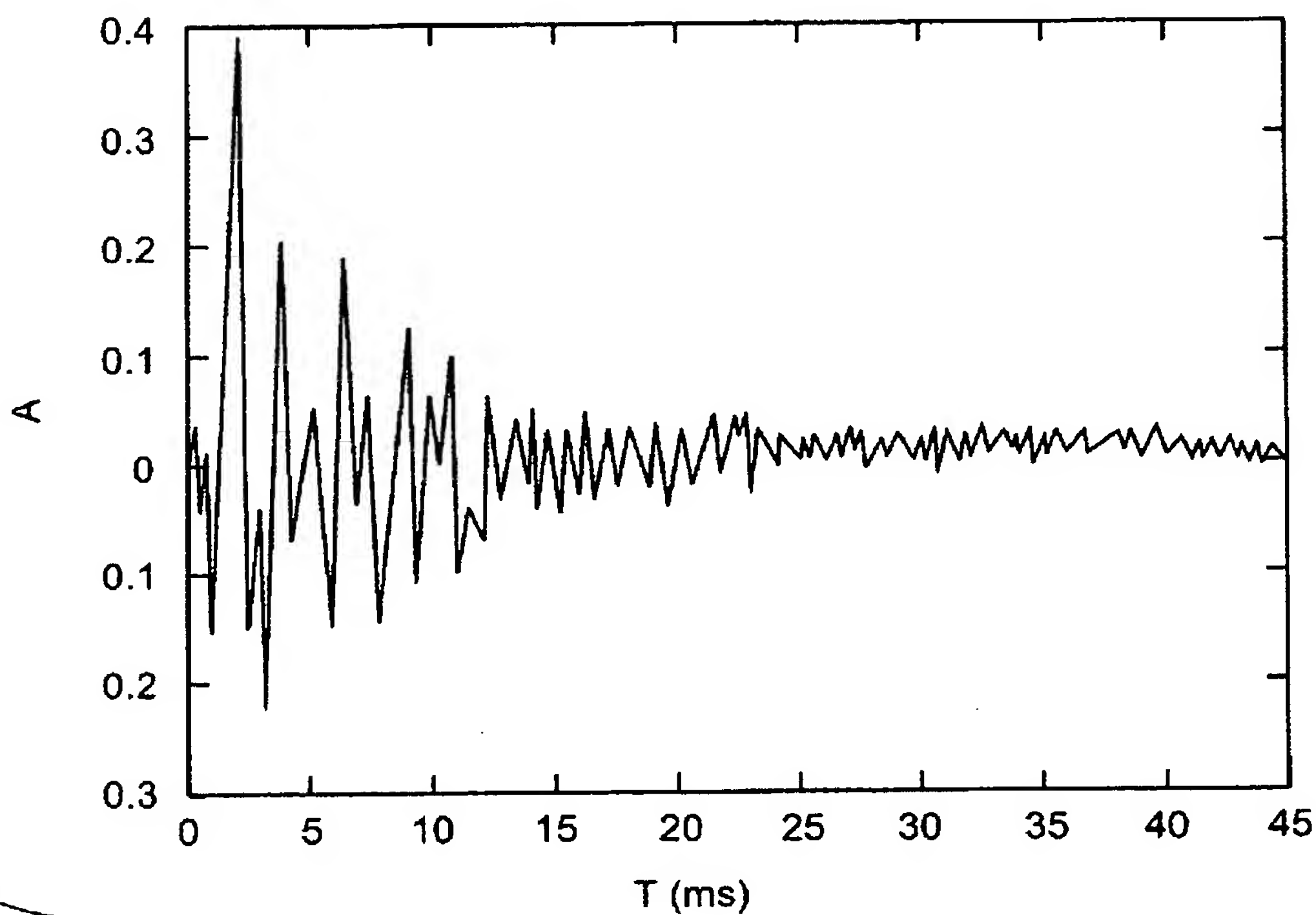
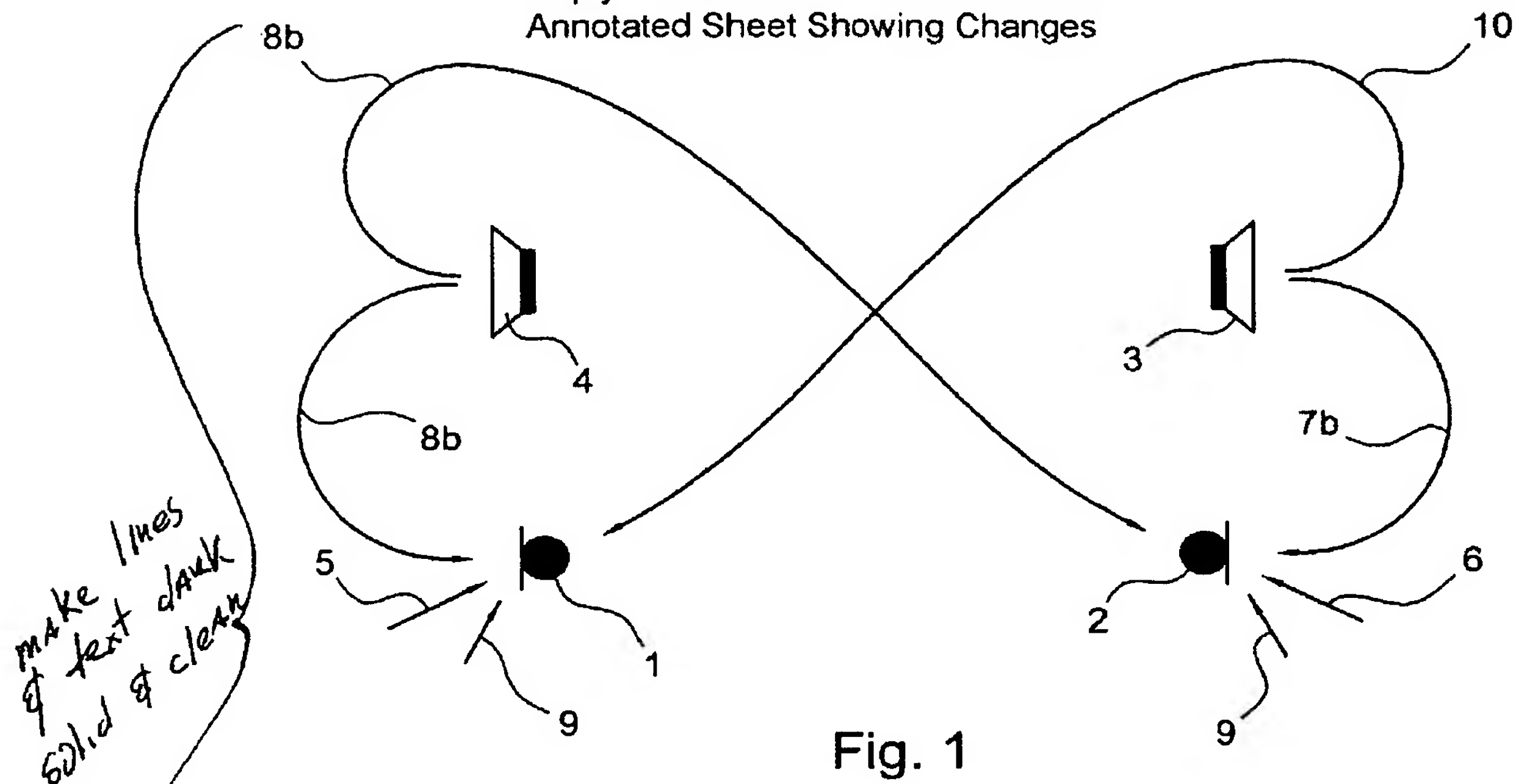


Fig. 4

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*Add legends
 per Examiner
 make lines &
 text & draw
 solid & clear*

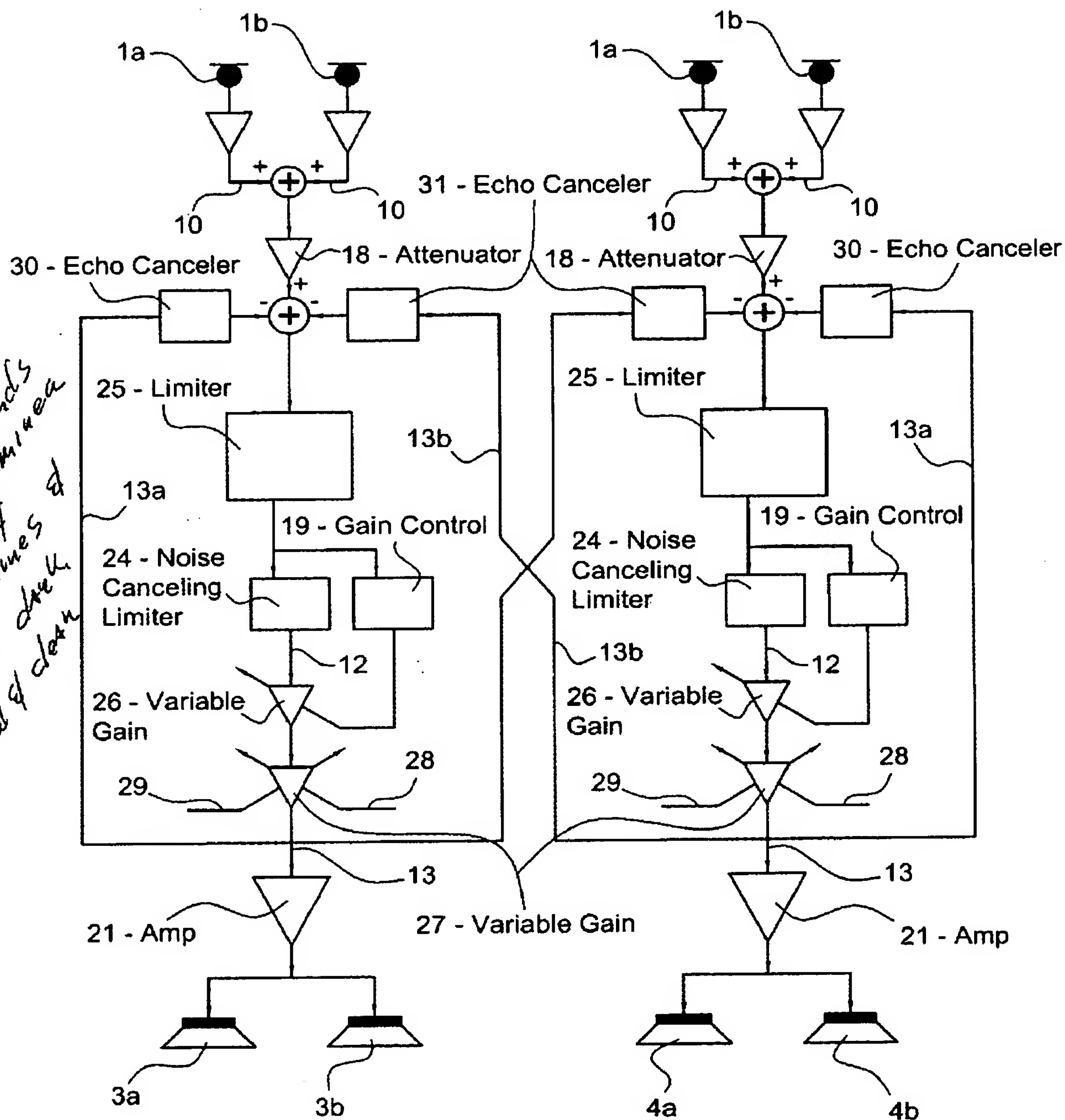


Fig. 6